

**IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
AT HYDERABAD**

**MONDAY, THE SECOND DAY OF MARCH
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX**

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE J. SREENIVAS RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 2953 OF 2026

Between:

1. Gurralla Venkat Reddy, S/o. Anthi Reddy, Age. 41 years, Occ. Agriculture, R/o.Chandupatla Village, Maddirala Mandal, Suryapet District.
2. Elipeddi Malla Reddy, S/o. Sathi Reddy, Age. 47 years, Occ. Agriculture, R/o.Polumalla Village, Maddirala Mandal, Suryapet District.
3. Navulla Malla Reddy, S/o. Linga Reddy, Age. 57 years, Occ. Practicing Advocate and Agriculture, R/o.H.No.8-120, Maddirala Village and Mandal, Suryapet District.

...Petitioners/Accused No. 1 to 3

AND

1. The State of Telangana, Rep. by its Public Prosecutor, High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad Through S.H.O. Maddirala Police Station, Suryapet District. **...Respondent**
2. Vallapur Mallaiah, S/o. Lingaiah, Age.44 years, Occ. Agriculture, R/o. Maddirala Village and Mandal, Suryapet District.

...Respondent/De-facto complainant

Petition under Section 528 of BNSS praying that in the circumstances stated in the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition, the High Court may be pleased to call for the records in connection with the cognizance order dtd.31.12.2020, passed in C.C. N. 1064 of 2020 on the file of the Court of the Judicial Magistrate Of First Class, Thungathurty, Suryapet District, and quash the same by allowing the above petition.

I.A. NO: 1 OF 2026

Petition under Section 528 of BNSS praying that in the circumstances stated in the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition, the High Court may be pleased to Stay of all further proceedings, including appearance of the Petitioners Accused No.1 to 3 in C.C N. 1064 of 2020 on the file of the Court of the Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Thungathurty District pending disposal of the above criminal petition.

This Petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition and upon hearing the arguments of Mr. Mummaneni Srinivasa Rao, Advocate for the Petitioners and the Mr. Jithender Rao Veeramalla Additional Public Prosecutor on behalf of the Respondent No.1 and of none appeared for the Respondent No. 2.

The Court made the following: ORDER

IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
AT HYDERABAD

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE J.SREENIVAS RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION No.2953 of 2026

Date: 02.03.2026

Between:

Gurrula Venkat Reddy and two others

...Petitioners

AND

The State of Telangana,
Rep. by its Public Prosecutor,
High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad
Through S.H.O. Maddirala Police Station,
Suryapet District and another

...Respondents

ORDER

This Criminal Petition is filed by the petitioners/accused Nos.1 to 3, seeking to quash the proceedings in C.C.No.1064 of 2020 on the file of the learned Judicial Magistrate of First Class at Thungathurthy.

2. Heard Mr.Mummaneni Srinivasa Rao, learned counsel for the petitioners and Mr.Jithender Rao Veeramalla, learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for respondent No.1.

3. With the consent of both the learned counsel, the criminal petition is disposed of at the admission stage on the ground that even according to the learned counsel for the petitioners, the matter before the learned Trial Court has not ripened for the trial yet. In view of the same, notice in respect of respondent No.2/*defacto* complainant is dispensed with.

4. Upon perusal of the record, it reveals that the learned Magistrate, without recording satisfaction and without assigning any reasons, has taken cognizance against the petitioners on 31.12.2020 and issued summons mechanically and passed cryptic docket order. Therefore, the docket order dated 31.12.2020 passed by the learned Magistrate is liable to be quashed.

5. Learned Assistant Public Prosecutor has not opposed the submissions made by the learned counsel for the petitioners.

6. Having considered the rival submissions made by the respective parties and after perusal of the material available on record, it reveals that the learned Magistrate has taken cognizance, without recording satisfaction and without assigning

any reasons against the accused and not against the offences, through docket order dated 31.12.2020.

7. It is very much relevant to mention that in ***Sunil Bharati Mittal v. Central Bureau of Investigation***¹ the Hon'ble Supreme Court held that the order of issuing process to accused to face criminal trial is a serious issue. Such summoning cannot be done on mere asking and the Court has to record reasons for summoning a person. In ***GHCL Employees Stock Option Trust v. India Infoline Limited***², the Hon'ble Apex Court found fault with the order of the Magistrate in issuing summons when the Magistrate has not recorded his satisfaction about the prima facie case against the accused. In ***Chief Enforcemnet Officer v. Videocon International Limited***³, the Hon'ble Supreme Court while discussing the expression 'cognizance' held that in criminal law 'cognizance' means becoming aware of and the word used with respect to Court or a Judge initiating proceedings in respect of an offence. Taking cognizance would involve application of mind by the Magistrate to the suspected

¹ (2015) 4 SCC 609

² (2013) 4 SCC 505

³ (2008) 2 SCC 492

commission of an offence. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Sunil Bharati Mittal's case (Supra)*, further held as follows:

"Sine Qua Non for taking cognizance of the offence is the application of mind by the Magistrate and his satisfaction that the allegations, if proved, would constitute an offence. It is, therefore, imperative that on a complaint or on a police report, the Magistrate is bound to consider the question as to whether the same discloses commission of an offence and is required to form such an opinion in this respect. When he does so and decides to issue process, he shall be said to have taken cognizance. At the stage of taking cognizance, the only consideration before the Court remains to consider judiciously whether the material on which the prosecution proposes to prosecute the accused brings out a prima facie case or not."

8. In *Fakhruddin Ahmad v. State of Uttaranchal and another*⁴, it is held as follows:

"Nevertheless, it is well settled that before a Magistrate can be said to have taken cognizance of an offence, it is imperative that he must have taken notice of the accusations and applied his mind to the allegations made in the complaint or in the police report or the information received from a source other than a police report, as the case may be, and the material filed therewith. It needs little emphasis that it is only when the Magistrate applies his mind and is satisfied that the allegations, if proved, would constitute an offence and decides to initiate proceedings against the alleged offender, that it can be positively stated that he has taken cognizance of the offence. Cognizance is in regard to the offence and not the offender."

9. In view of the observations and directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the judgments referred to supra, the act of issuing process of summoning the accused to face criminal trial is a serious issue and such orders directing summons to a person to face criminal trial cannot be on the basis of cryptic orders and

⁴ (2008) 17 SCC 157

it should be an order reflecting application of mind by the Presiding Officer while taking cognizance and issuing process.

10. For the foregoing reasons and in view of the principles laid down by the Hon'ble Apex Court in the judgments cited *supra*, and without going into the other grounds, this Court is of the considered view that docket order dated 31.12.2020 passed by the learned Judicial Magistrate of First Class at Thungathurthy in C.C.No.1064 of 2020 is liable to be quashed and accordingly quashed. However, this order will not preclude the learned Magistrate from taking cognizance and passing orders afresh in accordance with law, by giving reasons.

11. Accordingly, the criminal petition is disposed of.

Pending miscellaneous applications, if any, shall stand closed.

SD/- P.C.SULEKHA DEVI
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

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SECTION OFFICER

To,

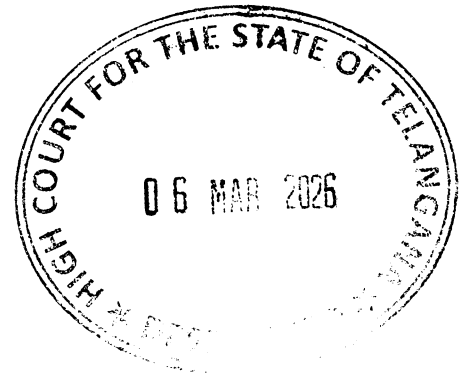
1. The Judicial First Class Magistrate at Thunagathurthy.
2. The Judicial Magistrate of First Class at Thungathurthy.
3. The Station House Officer, Maddirala Police Station, Suryapet District.
4. One CC to Mr. Mummaneni Srinivasa Rao, Advocate [OPUC]
5. Two CCs to Public Prosecutor High Court for the State of Telangana, at Hyderabad [OUT]
6. Two CD Copies

HIGH COURT

DATED: 02/03/2026

ORDER

CRLP.No.2953 of 2026



DISPOSING OF THE CRIMINAL PETITION

⑨
06/03/26
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